

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe*

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## American Education Week Observance

**War and Postwar Role of Schools and Related Issue to Be Widely Debated**

### FEDERAL AID IS STILL ISSUE

**Though Senate Has Killed Bill for This Session, Problem of Support for Schools Remains**

American Education Week, which begins next Sunday, November 7, is traditionally a period in which the schools make a special effort to tell the public what they are doing. Parents and friends of the schools are urged to visit classes and assemblies, and to view exhibits of student work. Schools cannot operate without effective public support, and this support will come much more readily if each taxpayer knows how his money is being spent and sees the concrete values resulting.

Education Week is also a period in which the schools weigh their effectiveness. The role of education is studied in light of the needs and purposes of the nation, to see if the schools are keeping up with the times, and making the greatest possible contribution to the efficiency and happiness of the individual and to the welfare of the country.

This year marks the 23rd observance of American Education Week. As usual, the celebration is sponsored by the National Education Association, the American Legion, the United States Office of Education, and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. The theme for 1943 is "Education for Victory."

#### "Education for Victory"

As this theme would indicate, the topics selected to be studied each day by students, teachers, and other citizens, are closely tied in with the significant events now taking place. These topics are as follows:

Sunday, November 7—Education for World Understanding

Monday, November 8—Education for Work

Tuesday, November 9—Education for the Air Age

Wednesday, November 10—Education to Win and Secure the Peace

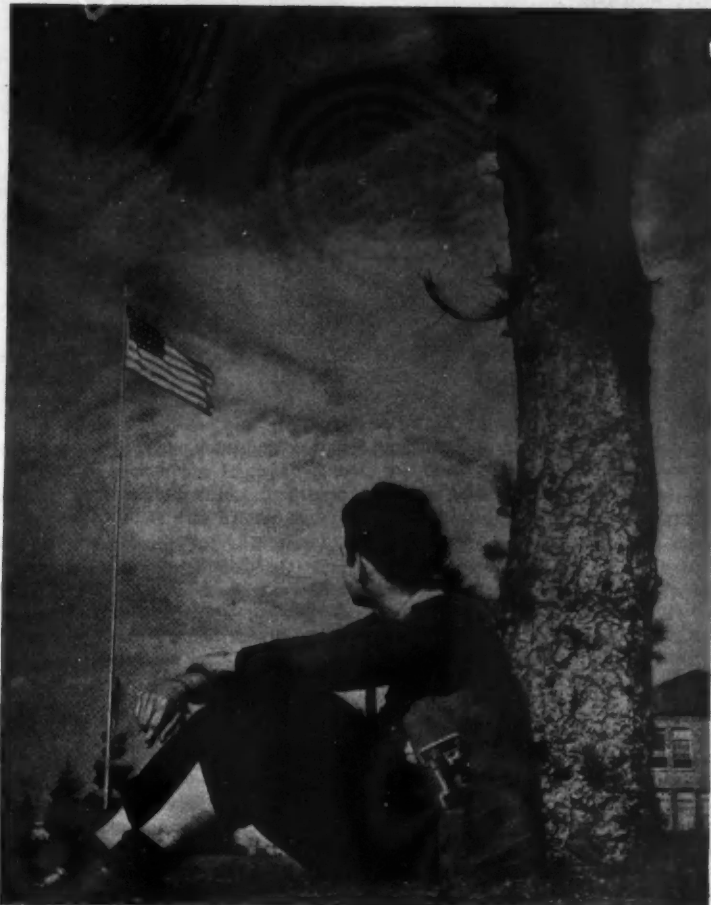
Thursday, November 11—Education for Wartime Citizenship

Friday, November 12—Meeting the Emergency in Education

Saturday, November 13—Education for Sound Health

It is altogether appropriate that American Education Week should be a time to study and discuss the problems which face the nation's schools. These problems are numerous; some of them are of long standing, while others are largely an outgrowth of war conditions. In any case, they are not problems for adults alone. Students, too, are vitally affected, and it is well that they should give full consideration to these educational issues.

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Youth looks to the future

LOS ANGELES CITY SCHOOLS

## Dangers of Twisted Thinking

By Walter E. Myer

A large and influential eastern newspaper, speaking editorially of the coming offensive in Burma, says: "Its objective will be to recover for the British Empire the territories of Burma and Malaya, and presumably, after a time, Hong Kong. . . . India's safety is not vital to the safety of the United States. Neither is the recapture of Burma and Malaya. We do not believe Americans will like the idea of sending several hundred thousand drafted American boys to the stinking jungles of Burma and Malaya to retrieve them for the British Empire."

This is the old trick of confusing major purposes with incidental results. The object of the United States is to win the war against Japan. Our military authorities think that one very effective way to strike against Japan is to drive the Japanese from Burma and reopen the Burma Road so that more supplies can be sent to our Chinese Allies. If that is not done the war against Japan may be greatly prolonged and thousands of American lives may be sacrificed in the long-continued struggle.

The British as well as ourselves will profit from an early victory over the Japanese. If Burma is retaken, it may be restored to the British Empire. So far as we are concerned, that result is incidental. Nothing would be more stupid than for us to refuse to take action which would hurry the defeat of our mortal enemy merely because another nation, as well as our own—and an ally at that—would also benefit by the action.

A nation which hesitated to work for its own interests lest others might also benefit from its efforts would be on the road to certain defeat. An individual guilty of such twisted thinking, such stubbornness, and such meanness of spirit would suffer a like fate.

Another point to consider is this: We are engaged in a great cooperative effort with Great Britain. Each of the two nations is fighting for the other as well as for itself. We could not win the terrible war in which we are engaged if the British were not fighting at our side, any more than they could win without our help. If the cooperative effort is to succeed, we must be willing and even anxious for the British to achieve their major objectives, as they must be willing and anxious for us to achieve ours. Neither nations nor individuals can work wholly for themselves when they have to depend upon others, as both nations and individuals frequently do, for success and even for life itself. Cooperation is the key to decent and progressive living, and in order to cooperate one must be broadminded and generous. He need not, should not, be weak or self-effacing. He should see that his own interests are served. He must at the same time be willing for those upon whom he depends for success and with whom he cooperates to be equally considered.

## Plans Being Mapped For Burma Campaign

**Mountbatten Meets Chiang and U. S. Military Leaders to Discuss Strategy**

### DIFFICULT PROBLEMS AHEAD

**Allied Forces Will Have to Operate Under Most Trying Conditions of Jungle Warfare**

Lord Louis Mountbatten, commander-in-chief of the southeast Asia theater of operations, has just completed a series of conferences in Chungking, China. He is reported to have gone over plans for future strategy with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, Lieutenant General Brehon B. Somervell, commander of United States Service Forces, Lieutenant General Joseph W. Stilwell, commander of American forces in China, India, and Burma, and other ranking Allied military leaders in the Far East. Admiral Mountbatten journeyed to the capital of Free China after having set up headquarters in New Delhi, India.

This recent conference is but one of many indications that plans are rapidly being worked out for offensive action in southeast Asia, particularly in Burma. The appointment of Mountbatten at the time of the Quebec conference was the first sign of anticipated action in that theater, for the dashing Britisher's name has long been associated with bold action (see page 2). Another reason observers believe action will not be long delayed is that the rainy season, marked by the famous monsoons, is now over and military action is again possible. Before the monsoons start again next May, it is generally believed, vital news will come from the China-Burma-India theater.

#### On Burma Front

Already there have been a few signs of increased activity on the Burma front. Both Allied and Japanese forces have launched minor offensives in this area. From India, British and Indian troops have attacked a coastal town about 100 miles to the northwest of the Japanese base at Akyab. In the north of Burma, the Japanese are reported to have broken through the Chinese defenses which for 18 months had prevented them from pushing into Yunnan Province. Whether either of these movements will lead to a major offensive is difficult to determine. However, it is fairly certain that intensive military operations will soon take place in this vital corner of Asia.

Burma's principal importance to the Allied cause lies in the fact that its reconquest is essential to supply China from the outside. All other supply routes by land and sea have been closed. Japan is in possession of the entire coastline of China and has conquered the outlying islands.

(Concluded on page 6)



## Lord Louis Mountbatten

**L**ORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN, the new Supreme Allied Commander in Southwest Asia, personifies everything the British admire most. In war, he is a bold and dashing leader, whose exploits recall the greatest of Britain's naval heroes. He is handsome, a skilled athlete, and of noble birth. At the same time, he is well known for his democratic ways and his readiness to plunge into the hardest fighting with his men.

It was natural that Lord Louis, as he is called, should choose the Navy in starting his career. His father, Prince Louis of Battenberg, was Grand Admiral of the British Fleet. Intent upon following his father's example, young Mountbatten entered the Navy as a Cadet at the age of 13, just a year before the First World War broke out.

The coming of war with Germany caused his father to resign both his naval post and his titles. Although he was a cousin of King George V, he was of Austrian birth and only a naturalized British subject. At the time, anti-German feeling was strong enough throughout Britain to make this a major count against him. He had the family name changed to its English equivalent of Mountbatten. After the war, King George gave him a British peerage.

Young Mountbatten saw active service during the First World War. He served as a midshipman on Admiral Beatty's flagships *Lion* and *Elizabeth* in the early years. By the time the war ended, he was a sub-lieutenant in a submarine flotilla.

In the 1920's, his contributions to the Navy came in the form of inventions. Most important was a station keeping device which reduced

certain difficult computations to a simple process of reading figures on a dial. In those peacetime years, Mountbatten won friends all over the world traveling as a naval aide to his cousin, the Prince of Wales, now Duke of Windsor.

He also endeared himself to the sports-loving British by becoming a polo expert and yachtsman. He patented a special polo mallet, and in 1931 wrote *Introduction to Polo* under the pseudonym of Marco. This book has become a standard work on the subject.

The year 1939, when England went to war again, found Mountbatten in command of the destroyer *Kelly* and of the newly formed Fifth Destroyer Flotilla. After three months of action, the *Kelly* was mined in the North Sea. Mountbatten's skillful navigation got the wrecked ship home for repairs. From that time until the *Kelly* sank in the Battle of Crete in 1941, he brought her through a series of fierce battles from Norway to the coasts of Africa.

A few months after the *Kelly* went down, Mountbatten came to the United States to take command of the aircraft carrier *Illustrious*. But before long, he was recalled to London, where Prime Minister Churchill secretly installed him in Sir Roger Keyes' place as chief of the Commandos.

This began one of the most exciting periods in his career. It meant experimenting with a new type of warfare. It meant striking with small, daring forces at a heavily fortified continental coast. It meant offering the first serious challenge to Hitler's supremacy in Europe since Nazi victories had forced out the last Allied armies.



Lord Louis Mountbatten and Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox discuss Far Eastern strategy

The Commandos translated guerrilla warfare into modern terms, creating "combined operations" of land, air, and sea forces. As Mountbatten said later on, "I'm not a sailor any more. I am a sort of Zebra—one-third soldier, one-third sailor, and one-third airman."

Combining the three types of attack, the Commandos made spectacular raids on Norway, on the coast of Africa, and on France. Their most successful raid came in March, 1942, when they assaulted the Nazi submarine base at St. Nazaire in northern France. It was only after this raid that Prime Minister Churchill told the public about the new chief of Combined Operations.

Lord Louis developed his Commando tactics through careful study. He read everything he could find on guerrilla warfare, naval landings, and assault parties. He lived with his men, and every time he devised a new job for them, he tried it out

at the same time they did. His theory is that "it's no good telling chaps to do something you cannot do yourself."

Another secret of his success as a Commando leader was the painstaking way he planned each attack. Heedless of his own time and energy, he planned the most insignificant details of each project himself. After every raid, he and his staff went over what had happened, checking every error. "One thing we guarantee," he says, "is that we never make the same mistake twice." As director of Combined Operations, Mountbatten was also known for his ability to fit the three services into a smoothly working team. Under him there was no rivalry between soldiers, sailors, and airmen—only devotion to the common aim.

When it was announced that Mountbatten had been chosen to head a new Southwest Asia force for the United Nations, there was some surprise that such a young man had been chosen. At 43, however, he is accustomed to doing big jobs. When he took over the post as Commando chief, he was relieving a man 28 years older than himself.

Once the new Allied Commander for Southwest Asia has mobilized his forces, observers expect the strong drive which will finally end Japan's dominance. Completely a man of action, Mountbatten has said that only when we have taken the offensive all over the world can we expect to finish the war successfully.

Mountbatten's good looks fit in with his record as a dashing leader. Six feet four inches tall, he is lean and handsome, with dark hair and blue eyes. Before the war, he led a gay social life among the top ranks of European society. Like every other Briton, however, he has felt the war in his personal life. His two daughters, Pamela and Patricia, were sent to the United States, along with thousands of other British children, at the time of the London blitz. His wife has been engaged in war work since the conflict began.

In the course of several trips to this country Lord Louis has become almost as popular in the United States as he is in Britain. He came here with the Prince of Wales and later with his wife. Since the war began, he has been here to visit his daughters, and, in his most recent visits, to confer with American military leaders about the strategy of future offensives which will be launched under his command.

## Interpreting the Student Poll

**W**E announced two weeks ago the results of the nationwide poll which had been sponsored by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER and the *Weekly News Review*. The results as they came to us were in many cases accompanied by letters from teachers explaining or interpreting the voting in their own schools. A number of these interpretations are of general interest.

Many of the letters referred to the large "Undecided" vote and several teachers think that this widespread indecision helps to explain the fact that the Republican vote was smaller than had generally been expected. The following is quoted from one of these letters:

"In my classes the vote was, approximately, 50 per cent Democratic, 25 per cent Republican and 25 per cent Undecided. When I saw these returns I was surprised and at first could not account for such a result, for the adults of this community are fairly evenly divided on party lines. Sometimes the Democrats carry the city and sometimes the Republicans.

"I discussed the matter with some of my students and I think I found the answer. A number of the students who ordinarily consider themselves Republicans

said they had voted Undecided this time because they had no idea who the candidate would be or what the platform would be like. In the face of uncertainty they simply said they are undecided.

"With the Democrats it is different. They all assume that President Roosevelt will be renominated. There is little uncertainty about it, so they do not hesitate to call themselves Democrats. In my opinion the Republican vote among the students would be about as large as the Democratic after the conventions have been held next summer. Certainly it would be more than 25 per cent."

Some support for this theory is afforded by an examination of recent Gallup polls. A poll made public on October 17 showed 54 per cent to be Democrats and 46 per cent Republicans. In taking this poll the Gallup organization did not include anyone who was undecided. It polled only those whose decisions had been made. It is noteworthy that the Democratic figure was within about one per cent of that obtained in the poll of high school students conducted by this paper. Our figure for the Republicans was much lower, but for Republicans plus "Undecided" it was about the

same as the Gallup poll figure.

Many of the letters which came to us referred to the fact that President Roosevelt's vote was less than that for the Democratic party. Some interpreted this to mean that he will be an unpopular candidate if he runs. Others stressed the fact that his vote was much higher than that of any other candidate.

In our poll we did not ask for a vote on Roosevelt versus some other man, such as Dewey or Willkie. In a Gallup poll made public on September 23, the persons polled were asked to choose between Roosevelt and Dewey. The result was, Roosevelt 55 per cent; Dewey 45 per cent. In this vote undecided persons were not polled. The fate of the candidates might thus depend upon which one finally obtained the support of most of the voters who are now undecided. As between Dewey and Wallace, those polled by Gallup voted 60 per cent for Dewey and 40 per cent for Wallace.

Through error Michigan was omitted from the list of East North Central States in the report of the poll. All votes from Michigan were counted, however, and were included in the report from that region.



# Willkie Raises Many Political Issues

**W**ENDELL WILLKIE'S recent speech in St. Louis may properly be regarded as the opening gun of the 1944 presidential campaign. It has brought political issues into the open, and it has been followed by a flood of comment both favorable and unfavorable in Mr. Willkie's own party. This discussion helps to clarify the points of difference among candidates, factions, and parties.

Because of the importance of the address by the 1940 nominee of the Republican party, we are analyzing the views to which it gives expression in the article which follows. From time to time other national leaders, both Democratic and Republican, will discuss the issues of the campaign, and THE AMERICAN OBSERVER will report these addresses as it here reports that of Mr. Willkie.

In his opening address at St. Louis on October 15, Mr. Willkie briefly outlined his views on a number of subjects.

**Fourth Term:** "It is a dangerous thing," says Mr. Willkie, "for one man or one group to remain in power over a period of many years." He continues: "Irrespective of the abilities or motives of the individuals involved, such long continuance of power is hazardous to the perpetuation of free government. For 150 years the people have instinctively known this. And the people have been right. For power so long held breeds within itself certain abuses which will ultimately destroy a democratic society. The individuals who hold it inevitably come sincerely to believe that they alone possess the requisite knowledge to govern the people. All other men, because they cannot be possessed of certain detailed knowledge, seem to them unqualified. Even potential leaders in their own party seem to them pygmies."

**Private Enterprise:** Mr. Willkie emphasizes the importance of maintaining free private enterprise in this country. He says that every man should have an opportunity to work, "to develop his abilities and to receive the rewards of his effort." Anyone, poor or wealthy, who has courage enough to embark on some business enterprise should have the chance to do it. Mr. Willkie implies here that under the Roosevelt administration businesses, large and small, are crippled by too many governmental regulations. He does not undertake to prove his point by citing illustrations. Doubtless he will do so in later addresses.

Unquestionably, this will be one of the big issues of the campaign, for



Wendell L. Willkie and Joseph W. Martin, Jr., Republican leader of the House of Representatives

nearly all Republican leaders are talking as Mr. Willkie does about free private enterprise. Stress will be laid upon the burdens which, according to the Republicans, the Roosevelt administration is placing upon business.

**Competition:** Mr. Willkie says that free business enterprise can be maintained only if competition is free. It will not flourish if great corporations get into a monopoly position, that is, if they control production completely in any field. Hence he says that "where enterprise . . . excludes competition, such enterprise must be regulated in the interests of the people." This indicates that Mr. Willkie believes in strong antitrust laws.

**World Trade:** Mr. Willkie does not state his position in detail with respect to the tariff, but he emphasizes the need for foreign trade. He thinks that the whole world, including our own country, will be more prosperous if the nations trade freely with each other. He speaks of the importance of breaking down "unnecessary and artificial trade barriers and tariffs." This is too vague to mean very much, for high tariff advocates would always say that the tariff rates which they propose are "necessary."

The fact, however, that Mr. Willkie does not speak of the necessity of tariffs or import duties as a means of keeping competing foreign goods out of this country and that he does speak of the dangers of unnecessary tariffs indicates that he may be a low-tariff man. If that is true, his views will come in sharp conflict with those of other Republican leaders for the Republican party has consistently favored relatively high tariff duties.

**Social Security:** Under the Roosevelt administration, a comprehensive plan of social security has been set up. It provides for unemployment, accident and old-age benefits or insurance. Mr. Willkie favors the continuance of such a social security program, though he insists that it has not been well administered under the Roosevelt administration. Naturally Roosevelt supporters deny this charge. More detailed

arguments on this point will doubtless be heard as the campaign progresses.

**Agriculture:** Mr. Willkie thinks that under the Roosevelt administration there has been too much of an effort to manipulate farm prices and that there has been too much of petty interference with the farmers. He indicates that he opposes attempts to limit farm production in order to raise prices. Instead, he would have the farmers produce all that they can and then undertake to find a market for their products. He thinks that there are great opportunities along this line. If there is general employment the people of the nation can buy more farm products. Furthermore, we are finding "new uses of nutritive foods, new uses of agricultural products and industry . . . yet even this great domestic expansion will not be big enough. It is only when we contemplate expanding foreign markets which will come with a world of peace and cooperative effort among the nations that we begin to glimpse the mighty forces that we can bring to the aid of the American farmer."

**Foreign Policy:** Mr. Willkie criticizes President Roosevelt for the practice of "secret diplomacy." He says the President should have taken the public into his confidence in the years before the war and should have told of the growing danger of war with Japan and Germany. If the people had known the facts, he says, they would have supported a great armament program so that the country would have been prepared for war when it came. Friends of the President assert that he went farther than any other public leader, Mr. Willkie included, in proclaiming the approaching danger, but Republicans support the charge that the public was not given enough specific facts.

Mr. Willkie hits at the isolationists, at those who think that America "should go it alone after the war." He says it would be dangerous for us to try to depend upon an "impregnable defense." Other nations would do the same thing, and there would be an armament race which would be very costly. "Under such conditions," he says, "all those things which we cry out against now and endure only as wartime measures—regimentation, bureaucracy, interfer-

ence with many of our traditional freedoms would, through sheer necessity, have to be multiplied again and again."

It is argued in the address that America should associate herself with other nations in some kind of organization for the purpose of establishing a just and lasting peace. There is no attempt to outline the detailed organization which should be adopted by the nations.

Mr. Willkie thinks that ultimately the organization should include all the nations, or at least all the members of the United Nations. He opposes our joining into an offensive and defensive alliance with any nation. However, he argues that as a first step toward a larger organization we should work closely with Great Britain, Russia, and China. He says: "I can testify from personal observation that all the world turns to America for leadership. Therefore, tentatively, hopefully, I should like to see this country exercise its utmost qualities of leadership and moral force to bring Great Britain, Russia, China, and the United States to a point of understanding where they will make a joint declaration of intention as a preliminary to forming a common council of the United Nations and other friendly nations and eventually of all the nations. Out of the practice of cooperation and out of the substance of agreement will come our only chance to realize man's hope for peace."

## ♦ SMILES ♦

"Where have you been, Johnnie?"  
"Playing ball, Mother."  
"I told you to beat the rug, didn't I?"  
"No, ma'am, you told me to hang the rug on the line and then beat it."  
—WALL STREET JOURNAL

A Detroit miss of nine hurried home from a recital with news that they played Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata.  
—DETROIT NEWS



"Trade you five swell worms for a sandwich."  
—SELLER IN BOY'S LIFE

"It's easy to tell if it's a friend or a bill collector at the door."  
"How?"  
"Just wait a while—and if it's a bill collector he won't go away."  
—MONITOR

An angry man, having trouble with the telephone, bellowed at the operator, "Am I crazy, or are you?"  
"I'm sorry, sir," she replied in her sweetest voice, "but we do not have that information."  
—MAGAZINE DIGEST

A disgruntled American soldier in London, depressed by the rainy English summer, gazed up at the barrage balloons. "Say," he asked suddenly, "why don't they cut those wires and let the whole place sink?"

The treasury warns us that \$10,000 bills are getting scarce. Most of us have noticed this.  
—GALT

"How did Junior make out in his latest exams?"  
"Oh, he's doing much better. He was almost at the top of the list of those who failed."  
—CLASSMATE



An old family custom  
SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS



# The Story of the Week



The Russian Front

## Fighting in the Crimea

Jutting into the northern waters of the Black Sea, there is a small diamond-shaped block of land. This peninsula, hinged to the Russian mainland by the narrow Isthmus of Perekop, is known as the Crimea. It is not a particularly rich piece of land. Although its climate is pleasant in the south and it has been popular as a resort, it yields no vital crops or resources. Yet the Crimea has figured importantly in wars throughout its history, and is even now the focus of fighting between the Russians and Germans.

The Crimea is important because its position dominates the Black Sea area, which in turn is of vital importance to both the Balkans and the Middle East. Before the Germans seized it, Russia based her powerful Black Sea fleet at Sevastopol, one of its southern ports. Holding it, the Germans had a valuable link between their Balkan holdings and the fighting fronts in the Caucasus and the Ukraine.

Recent Soviet gains along the southern Dnieper front indicate that the Nazis may soon lose the Crimea. At this writing, the Red Army has cleared the center of Melitopol of German troops. This city, to the northeast of the Perekop, is regarded as the gateway to the Crimea. The Germans have fought savagely to hold it, at least until their Crimean forces, estimated at 100,000 troops, can be evacuated. If the Russians can take it, they will be within easy reach of the Balkan states as well as in a better position for completing the liberation of the Ukraine.

## Inflation Battle

Although everyone agrees that inflation should be prevented at all costs, the strategy of our battle against it has never been fully settled. At no point since the war began have the President, Congress, the various administrative agencies, and interested groups in the population; been in agreement on such basic issues as wage stabilization, price control, subsidies, and taxation. After 23 months, these subjects still

present as many questions as answers to the general problem. Here are some of the latest developments on the anti-inflation front:

## Labor

As we go to press, two new labor crises are imminent. Rejecting the National Railway Panel's award of a four-cent-an-hour pay increase, leaders of the five railroad operating brotherhoods have called for a nationwide strike vote. The brotherhoods include 350,000 railroad workers all over the country.

The second major labor event involves the miners of John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers. The War Labor Board has summoned UMW leaders to explain why the strikes in the Alabama coal fields have not been halted. At this point, some 20,000 miners are refusing to go to work without a contract.

Meanwhile, all arguments have been heard in consideration of the latest agreement Lewis signed with the Illinois Coal Operators' Association. According to Chairman W. H. Davis, that agreement gives the miners a raise in pay of 37½ cents a day. The implication is that War Labor Board plans to disapprove the contract.

At the same time, all of the great labor groups have renewed their attacks on the Little Steel formula, which permits no more than a 15 per cent wage increase to cover increased living costs since January, 1942. The President has answered with a promise to investigate the accuracy of the government's figures on living costs.

All of the unions which have been pressing for higher wages have made their demands on the grounds that there has been no large-scale rollback of basic food prices. A large-scale rollback cannot be put into effect until Congress comes to its decision on the question of subsidies.

## OPA

For the second time, the administration of the OPA is about to change hands. Prentiss Brown, former senator who was called in to take over after Leon Henderson, has

just resigned as head of the agency. The President has nominated Chester Bowles, general manager of OPA, to succeed him.

Resigning at this time, Brown leaves the agency in many ways better than he found it. Because of the ousting of "professors and economists" it has grown more popular with the general public. On the strength of a food subsidy program begun last May, prices of a number of basic foods have been lowered.

In his final letter to the President, however, Brown pointed out two things which might keep OPA from accomplishing its objectives. The first possibility is that Congress will reject the use of food production subsidies. "Without a subsidy plan," Brown said, "the price structure cannot be held. No thinking person can deny that the increase in prices and wages if we reject subsidies will greatly outrun the cost to the government of subsidies."

The other hurdle OPA must clear is farther off. Next July, the law under which OPA operates will run out. Renewing it, Congress may act again to change the agency's structure, or the scope of its functions.

## Taxes

As administration leaders planned it, taxes were to take up \$10,500,000,000 of the public's money next year. The heavy tax program was framed for two reasons—to help pay the staggering costs of war, and to absorb some of the extra money which might otherwise be used to bid up prices and set the inflationary process in motion.

The House Ways and Means Committee, where tax laws start, has vetoed this program. It has outlined a plan for simplifying payments, but one which keeps income taxes at present levels. The Treasury Department's program was called too heavy a burden on the taxpayer.

As the congressmen debated the tax question, there were some proposals to take up more money through a sales tax. Labor and administration leaders argue that such a tax would encourage drives for higher wages and prices.

## Nazi Home Front

This year has meant nothing but defeats for the Germans. On every front, their armies are now on the

defensive. Many of the objectives which once seemed within their grasp are now hopelessly out of reach. And at home there are only casualty lists, hard work, and the nightly horror of our bombing raids.

Recent reports from the Reich indicate that the bombings weigh more heavily in disturbing German morale than even the spectacular losses in Russia. German newspapers now acknowledge that the Caucasus is gone. The Dnieper battle they term a "comprehensive disengaging action." But no consolation and no trick of wording can modify the effect of the year's aerial attacks. As one writer put it, "Hamburg has always stood for something definite in the Reich—now it stands for want, misery, and struggle."

Although food supplies and basic



She needs victories on this front, too  
CARMACK IN C. B. MONITOR

necessities are still adequate in Germany, the destruction of so many German industrial centers has put extra demands upon the labor force. It has also done much to disrupt transportation, and has created new social problems relating to the homeless survivors of the attacks.

## Welles Speaks Out

When Sumner Welles left his post as undersecretary of state, there were only rumors and speculation to explain his departure. Now his quarrel with the administration has been somewhat clarified by a speech given in Washington on the most important aspects of our foreign policy.

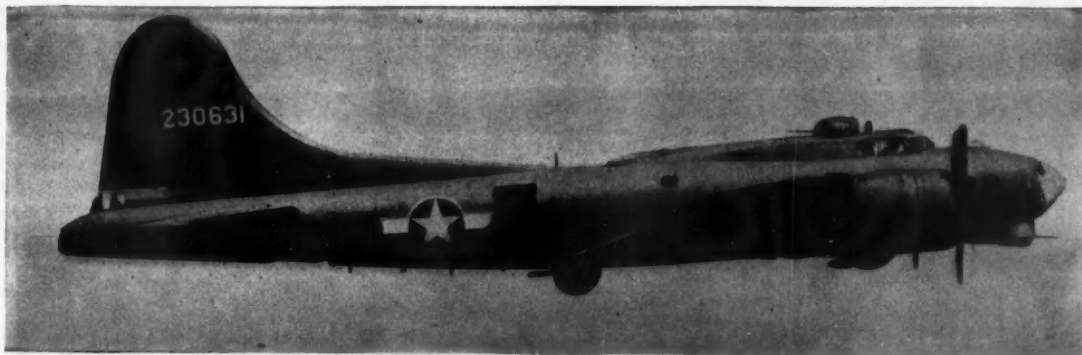
In his speech, Welles criticized the Roosevelt administration for not taking the lead in behalf of postwar international collaboration and also for not revealing its plans and purposes more fully to the public. Welles, who backed the Ball-Burton-Hatch-Hill Resolution committing the United States to participation in a world organization, believes that a stronger statement than the Connally resolution is needed to establish America's position on postwar foreign policy.

In general, Welles' objectives might be summed up as follows: (1) definite and immediate planning for our part in the settlement of peace, (2) complete informing of the public as to where our government stands on all questions relating to that settlement, and (3) a broader base for future collaboration than would be secured through alliance with only Britain, Russia, and China—either a world-wide organization to pre-



SOMEWHERE IN CHINA. American artillery officers train Chinese soldiers in modern warfare tactics.





**EIGHTH GENERATION.** This is the eighth member of the B-17 family. The B-17-G Flying Fortress boasts a "chin turret" which is armed with two .50 calibre machine guns. Operated by remote control, the new turret is the answer to the Nazis' favorite tactic, the frontal attack.

serve peace, or a wider alliance taking in France and some of the other democratic nations as well as the four big powers.

### Haiti Contributes

Through her president, Elie Lescot, who has recently been in Washington, the little Caribbean republic of Haiti is preparing to make an important contribution to the United Nations war effort. Although Haiti is a small country, covering little more than 10,000 square miles, it can produce quantities of two things we badly need—sisal and rubber.

With the help of American experts, Haiti has been conducting experiments with cryptostegia, a rubber-producing vine that cuts the usual period of cultivation from seven years to a single year. These have progressed so well that Lescot predicts Haiti will export 10,000 tons of crude rubber to the United States in 1944.

Sisal production is now at the rate of 15 million tons a year, and will reach 20 million in 1944. One of the newest projects Haiti is undertaking is a large-scale food program. The Haitians are now working out plans for cultivating every inch of their territory in anticipation of the postwar demand for large food supplies.

### Wallace vs. Monopoly

Some time back, Vice-President Henry A. Wallace began a series of attacks against various forms of monopoly—international cartels and domestic monopolies alike. The latest aspect of his antimonopoly drive was revealed in a recent speech denouncing "financial exploitation" in the nation's great railroads.



Workmen are shown leaving the American aircraft carrier, U.S.S. SHANGRI-LA, now under construction at Portsmouth, Virginia. Paid for by war bonds earmarked for the purpose, the vessel is named for the mythical base from which General Jimmy Doolittle's airmen raided Tokyo.

Wallace claims that excessive transportation rates are burdening agriculture, industry, and trade, especially in the southern and western sections of the country. These regions, he says, are kept from enjoying cheap and efficient transportation by the fact that prevailing railroad lines have no competition to force low rates and improvements.

According to Wallace, motor carriers—bus and trucking concerns—have joined with the railroads to equalize the price of their services. Doing away with competition, and sharing business with each other, all are free to charge the highest rates the public can pay.

The Vice-President says that most people think the Interstate Commerce Commission sets all public transportation rates. This is far from true, according to his statement, as actually most rates are agreed upon in conferences of the railroads, or in private rate bureaus. The ICC, he charges, never reviews as many as one per cent of the rate schedules filed with it.

### War in Greece

No European nation has known more suffering in this war than Greece. The full weight of invasion has fallen upon her people. Famine and disease have added to the horrors of a brutal occupation. Now still another tragedy is heaped upon the country's already towering misfortunes. Opposing factions in the Greek underground have brought about a three-sided civil war.

As soon as the first Axis forces came into Greece, patriots began joining guerrilla bands to fight them. Since the watchfulness of the Gestapo prevented any united action, each band operated independently. As time went on, they did join forces until three main groups had been formed. Soon rivalries developed among the three. Now these rivalries have grown so intense that the guerrilla armies have lost sight of their real purpose—to drive out the invader—and are spending their strength in fighting each other.

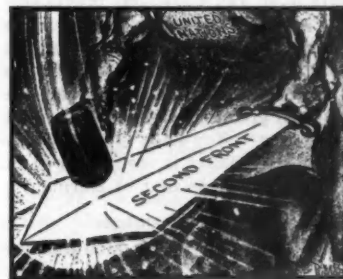
The Greek National Liberation Front combines Greek patriots of all persuasions, but is mainly directed by communists. Its major strength is in the cities. The Greek National Democratic Army, known as the E.D.E.S., is less radical and more inclined toward republicanism. Directed by a General Napoleon Zarvas, it is strongest in Epirus and Thessaly, in northwestern Greece. The third group, the National and Social Liberation Group, or E.K.K.A., operates most strongly in central Greece and the Peloponnese. Led by a Colonel Psarros, it is the rival of both other factions, but is most opposed to the communists. The communist group

and the E.D.E.S. are responsible for the heaviest present fighting.

As in Yugoslavia, the Germans have not failed to take advantage of a disunited opponent. Whenever the internal struggle dies down, Nazi agents fan up the old antagonisms among the rival groups and divert the attacks which would otherwise be leveled against them.

### OWI on Planes

For every American plane downed by enemy airmen, since Pearl Harbor, our flyers have knocked out four hostile ones, according to the OWI's recent report. This is an overall average, taking in both Army and Navy craft and all theaters of war in which they are used. In many units



Finishing touches at victory's forge  
BISHOP IN THE ST. LOUIS STAR-TIMES

the ratio is even higher—as in China, where the 14th Air Force kept up an average of nine to one for a period of 13 months.

The OWI report quoted Army and Navy officials as saying that in every major class, American planes now surpass the enemy's best. On the production front, however, it revealed that these fine planes are not coming off the assembly lines as fast as they should.

In September, 7,598 planes were produced—14 less than the August total. Because of this and other lags, the report acknowledged that this year's aircraft production goals cannot be met. There is serious doubt that the rate of output can be raised to 10,000 planes a month before the end of the year.

Analyzing the aircraft production lag, OWI blamed it on a number of factors. Constant changes in models, engine shortages, poor distribution of raw materials, reorganizations in plant layout, labor shortages, and mistakes in production have all contributed to the troubles of the aircraft industry. Also, OWI found another fault. The report states: "Individuals in both management and labor have lacked the imagination necessary to see clearly the implications and requirements of so enormous an undertaking; and the resultant faults in production have been apparent to workers in the factories and have struck at their morale."

## News in Brief

Since Pearl Harbor, the Army Air Forces have dropped 105,649 tons of bombs on the enemy. The OWI reports that American air power has destroyed a total of 7,312 hostile planes in that period. Our own losses are counted as only 1,867 planes.

Despite the fact that the Nazis have taken most of the wealth of the conquered nations, these countries are contributing materially to the United Nations cause. Through the nine governments-in-exile in London, they have recruited 450,000 soldiers, 27,000 airmen, and 22,000 seamen. They have also supplied 240 naval vessels and 2,300 merchant ships.

While some aircraft carriers, like the *Wasp* and the *Ranger*, are named without reference to any set rule, in general vessels of this class take their names from famous battles or campaigns in American history. The first carrier to be named after a campaign in this war is the recently launched U.S.S. *Bataan*.

A new exchange of Japanese and American nationals will soon bring some 1,500 Americans, Latin Americans, and Canadians back to this hemisphere on the Swedish liner *Gripsholm*. Along with its Japanese passengers, the *Gripsholm* brought from the United States 2,400 tons of Red Cross supplies which will be distributed among American nationals still held in the Orient.

Through the 2,100 labor-management committees operating in American factories, workers are helping to promote the efficiency of our production effort. More than 500,000 employee suggestions have been turned in since these committees were started. Some 43,000 have been judged good enough for the "Plant Award" which the committees are empowered to bestow under WPB regulations.

The British navy has borrowed from the Japanese in introducing a new type of submarine to its forces. The new submarines, tiny ships carrying only two men, can slip by the enemy's defense with less chance of detection than larger craft. They were used successfully when the Royal Navy attacked a German warship in one of the Norwegian fjords.

### The American Observer

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## Plans Mapped for Burma Campaign

(Concluded from page 1)

She has also overrun the neighboring countries of Thailand and French Indo-China. When she seized Burma, she closed the final supply route to China, for she made it impossible for the Allies to supply China over the famous Burma Road. Since the conquest of Burma, the Allies have been obliged to send what meager supplies were able to reach China into the country by means of air transport.

Burma fell to the Japanese during the dark and tragic weeks following Pearl Harbor. It was not long after the fall of Singapore early in 1942 that the Japanese pushed their drive against Burma, first taking the port of Rangoon, where the Burma Road begins, and then driving northward until they had overrun the entire country. Those were the days when it appeared that the Japanese would join hands with the Germans and Italians in the Indian Ocean. At no time in the war, except during the Battle of Britain, did the Allied cause seem more hopeless.

Had the Axis been able to join hands in the spring of 1942 in the Indian Ocean, it would have meant the isolation of the Allies. The supply lines by which we were sending essential war equipment to Russia would have been severed. The major Axis strategic objective during those days was to bring about a union of the three powers, and it was only because we were able to prevent the junction that we were able later to assume the initiative on all fronts.

After the fall of Burma, heroic efforts were made to build new supply routes to China, directly from India. One of these leads from the Indian port of Calcutta by way of India's northeastern province of Assam to Chungking. How soon this road will be completed and how effective it will be in meeting China's supply needs are questions which only the future can answer. Meanwhile, air transport remains the principal means of supply for Free China. It is generally agreed that Burma must be retaken by the Allies before the problem of supplying China can be adequately met.

### Difficulties to Be Met

A study of the map fails to reveal the difficulties which will be encountered in the coming battle for Burma. It will not be merely a matter of sending armies across the frontiers of India and driving the Japanese out of Burma. Larger than the state of Texas, it offers as difficult military terrain as any commander has had to face in planning a campaign.

Burma is not easily accessible from India because the terrain consists of roadless mountains and jungles. Some of the mountains are 8,000 feet in height. It is regarded as likely that the coming invasion will be largely



The gold chapels around the Shwe Dagon Pagoda in Rangoon, Burma

ACHALEH FROM THREE LIONS

from the sea, by storming the port of Rangoon and pushing northward through the valleys. Even the most favorable routes will be difficult for the Allied armies. Not until December, it is said, will the ground be dry enough for armies to march.

Burma is a country which man has never succeeded in subduing. Highways and railroads are practically nonexistent. The climate is no more friendly than the terrain. It is hot and damp and provides fertile ground for malaria, the disease which is giving trouble to all armed forces in the Far East. The strength of the best soldier is easily sapped in a climate such as that of Burma.

### Japan's Advantages

Thus when Lord Mountbatten maps his strategy for the Burma offensive, he must plan not only the military campaigns, but must take care to safeguard the health of the troops, to supply them, and to organize the entire campaign. The Burma campaign will be the first major offensive of the Allies on the continent of Asia, and it will call for the most careful plans.

The Japanese have shown themselves more adept than we have in the kind of fighting made necessary by the terrain and climate of Burma. They spent years in training their soldiers in all the stealthy arts of jungle warfare and proved their superiority when they conquered Malaya and Burma. Last winter, when the British made their first attack into Burma from India, they were unable to make any headway against the Japanese. And in the initial Japanese invasion, the American and Chinese forces led by U. S. General Joseph W. Stilwell were unable to hold the enemy back.

But the British and Americans have been making preparations for the day they would return to Burma. The British have been training Indian troops in jungle warfare. Chinese soldiers have also been training in India under American direction. Thus, future campaigns are expected to fare better for our side than have those of the past.

When we enter Burma, we shall be under another serious handicap. That is the attitude of the inhabitants of Burma. The Burmese are generally unfriendly toward the white man. For centuries Burma was ruled as a British colony, and although in recent years she was given a considerable degree of independence, the Burmese still dislike foreigners. This applies not only to the whites, but to the Indians, with whom the Burmese were formerly united against their will, and also to the Chinese who came into Burma as merchants. The Burmese have seen their country's resources and commerce fall under the control of foreigners and a strong "Burma for the Burmese" movement has developed as a result.

Japan, on the other hand, has had little contact with Burma in the past and has therefore been less disliked and has used clever propaganda to win over the Burmese. Burma was declared "in-

dependent" last August and Burmese puppets were placed at the head of the government. As in the case of the Philippines, the Japanese promise to withdraw from Burma after the war. To what extent the inhabitants of Burma have been taken in by this promise is unknown.

Thus, from whatever angle it is considered, the Burma campaign will be no easy matter for the Allies. It will entail the most careful planning and coordination of land, sea, and air forces. It will require a skilful campaign of political warfare designed to inspire the confidence of the Burmese in our intentions and alienate them from the Japanese. Few observers believe that much headway will be made before several months, although they do expect a beginning to have been made by the time the monsoons begin again next May.

### Rich in Resources

In addition to its strategic position, Burma is rich in many resources. Before the war, it was the world's largest exporter of rice, a staple food product throughout the Far East, and it is an important producer of petroleum. The country is well supplied with minerals and the forests produce valuable timbers.

The total population of Burma is about 15,000,000. Most of the people live in villages and there are only two cities—Rangoon and Mandalay—with populations of more than 100,000. The hundreds of small villages are usually located on the banks of the rivers. Houses are constructed of bamboo and elephant grass and are elevated from the ground on stilts as a protection against floods, snakes, and malaria.

Burma is one of the most colorful countries in the world, its quaintness having been celebrated in song and literature. The people, especially in the cities, are gaily clothed and the land is dotted with pagodas, which lend color to the landscape.

The Burmese are not an advanced people. Most of them are illiterate and take little interest in anything that does not immediately affect their daily lives. In the past, this has been a great handicap to progress and to self-government. In Burma, as in India, the British are faced with the difficult problem of a subject people desiring independence.



Burma

ACME



# Nation to Observe American Education Week

(Concluded from page 1)

At the present time, out of the hundreds of problems which concern the raising of educational levels, there are three major issues which call for most immediate attention. The first may be stated as follows:

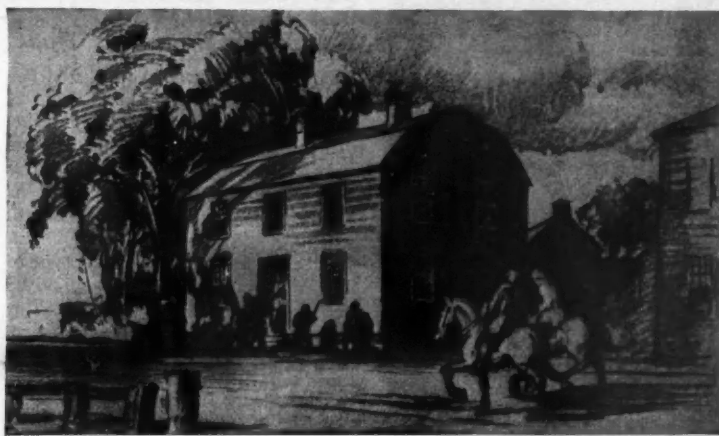
## 1. What is to be the general emphasis of education in the future?

In the past, emphasis in high schools has been upon what may be called "liberal" or "general" education. Young people have been encouraged to study a wide variety of subjects—literature and history, science, foreign languages, and mathematics, home economics, mechanics, and art. Much time has also been spent in helping students choose vocations suited to their interests and abilities. Educators have believed that such a wide study would broaden the mind, sharpen the ability to think, develop better personalities, and make for better citizenship.

The war has changed this program considerably, and schools are now emphasizing those studies which will prepare youth for military service. This means more courses in mathematics, mechanics, aviation, and the physical sciences. Conversely, it means less time for history, languages, literature, and the arts.

### Shift of Emphasis

There is, of course, little objection to this shift of emphasis during wartime, but some educators are becoming alarmed at a trend in many schools to make the wartime courses permanent, and to give less attention to the liberal arts in the future. This may or may not be a good thing, but it is a problem on which educators do not all agree, and one which deserves careful study. It is not too much to say that the future of American civilization depends on the



America's first high school—the Boston Latin School, founded more than 300 years ago

rests upon how well we train the coming generations to deal with the problems of war and peace.

What have schools done so far in this matter? As compared to 50 years ago, they have done much. But as compared to what they could do, they have merely dabbled at the problem. In most schools no more than one recitation period a week is devoted to the direct study of the problems and issues of the day. This is indeed a small amount of time to give to such vital matters. It is only natural that from many quarters should come a demand for greatly increased attention to civic education.

## 3. The third great education issue of the day is concerned with the support of the schools.

In some states this is not a serious problem; where there is a great deal of wealth concentrated in one state, it is relatively easy to collect enough taxes to support a good educational program. In other states, unfortunately, not enough money can be raised by taxes for an adequate program, and as a result, educational opportunity throughout the nation is very unequal.

### Disparity of Opportunity

This disparity of opportunity is revealed by these figures: the yearly current expenditure for schools per pupil enrolled varies from a high of \$135 in New York, \$121 in New Jersey, and \$114 in California, to a low of \$24 in Mississippi, \$25 in Arkansas, and \$30 in Alabama. Where five states spend \$100 or more per pupil, 11 states spend less than \$50 and five states less than \$35.

The amount which can be paid teachers varies in like manner. The average salary in a recent year for all teachers (including supervisors and principals) in New York State was \$2,604; in California, \$2,201. By contrast, the lowest average salary was \$559, in Mississippi, while in Arkansas it was only \$584. And it should be noted that teachers in rural areas usually receive far less than the average for their state. A third of a million teachers are paid less than the charwomen in government buildings in Washington.

The rising cost of living in wartime has severely aggravated this condition. While the cost of living has risen 25 per cent, teachers' sal-

aries have increased only about eight per cent. As a result of this situation, the more experienced and competent teachers are in many cases leaving their profession to seek employment where they can make a reasonable living.

It is estimated that when schools opened in September, one-fifth of all the nation's teachers were new to their positions. More than that, hundreds of schools could not even open their doors because they could not hire teachers. It is estimated that there are half a million pupils without teachers, and that 75,000 teachers would be needed to fill this huge gap. Even in larger schools subjects have had to be dropped for lack of instructors.

### Issue of Federal Aid

The situation is one which cannot easily be remedied by the individual states. Thus the people of California have on the average five times as much to spend as the people of Mississippi. Naturally they can and do spend more money on education. If the state of Mississippi spent every cent on education which it collects in taxes, the schools would still not be so well supported as they are in the wealthier states.

This is a serious matter not only for the poorer states but for the entire nation. Young people who live in a state with poor schools and who are therefore relatively uneducated often move to other states. This is confirmed by the fact that in 10 states more than half the people were born in other states. Thus the effects of neglect of education, such as crime, poor health, and illiteracy, are spread all over the nation.

With these facts in mind, many educators have urged upon Congress year after year that federal aid be given to education, that money collected by the national government be distributed among the poorer states in such a way as to enable them to raise their educational standards.

A bill to this effect has just been killed in the United States Senate. Against it, it was argued that federal aid to education would result in the control of the schools by the federal government. It was said that if the national government

should turn over money to the states to run the schools it would later send its officers into the states to determine how that money was spent. The bill recently before the Senate specifically declared that the control of education should remain with the states and local governments, but many believed it would be impossible to hold to that rule if the federal government helped to support the schools.

The Senate bill provided that money should not be given over to any of the states if they cut down the amount they had been spending for education. There are those, however, who believe that if federal aid were given, the states would not try so hard to support their schools.

The economy argument was also heard. It is a fact, of course, that the government is spending a great deal of money and going heavily into debt. A waste of money under such circumstances would be very bad, but there is a question as to whether money spent to raise the national educational level and to equalize educational opportunity would be wasted.

It is also argued that federal aid to education would be unfair to members of religious groups who send their children to church schools instead of public schools. It is argued that these people already pay taxes in the states to support the public schools, even though their children do not attend, and that the burden should not be made heavier by having the national government as well as the state and local governments tax them for the public schools.

It is a fact that education is not adequately supported and that large sections of the country are not able to support it. This is a serious matter for the nation. The defeat of the Senate bill did not solve the problem, nor did it settle the issue. The problem will not be solved until, in one way or another, the schools are assured better support.

If the federal aid bill did not represent the best means of dealing with the question, other measures should be found. Students and teachers should, therefore, study the arguments on this issue. They should become acquainted with the whole question of the support of American education.

American Education Week can be observed in no better way than through the study and discussion of the most appropriate means whereby educational opportunity may be afforded to all Americans.



CRANE FROM BLACK STAR

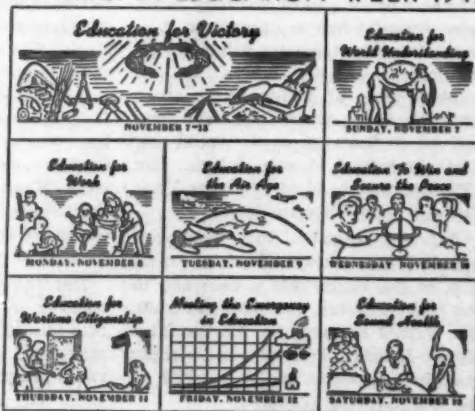
The war and the problems of reconstruction have placed unusually heavy responsibilities on the youth of America

kind of education American youth receive.

2. The second big issue facing the schools relates to civic education. How far shall the schools go in preparing young people to deal intelligently and skilfully with the problems of war, reconstruction, and peace which face our country and the world?

If this war has taught the peoples of the globe anything, it has taught that another world war cannot be tolerated. The cost of this war is beyond the powers of the imagination to conceive; the price of another war, with the genius of science turned to still greater means of destruction, might well be civilization. Thus few can deny that the hope of the future

## AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK 1943



REA





Dorothy Thompson is a noted radio commentator as well as newspaper columnist

### First Lady of Journalism

## Dorothy Thompson

**D**YNAMIC Dorothy Thompson has few competitors as First Lady of American journalism. Not only is she an excellent writer with a strong and forceful style; she can also boast that her column, *On the Record*, calls the turn of political happenings in an amazing number of cases.

There is only one major mistake on Dorothy Thompson's record as a political analyst. In the early 1930's, she interviewed Hitler. She left that interview convinced that the mustached brown-shirt leader was not dictator material. In a book called *I Saw Hitler*, she abruptly dismissed him as an insignificant "little man."

Since then, however, Columnist Thompson has devoted more than half of her writings to denouncing the fascism he built into a world menace. Long before Pearl Harbor, she was a vigorous interventionist. She clamored to have America go to war against Nazi Germany. She also heaped furious attacks on pro-Nazi and isolationist groups within the United States. In 1939, she disrupted a huge Bund meeting in New York's Madison Square Garden by heckling the speakers until police escorted her out.

The fact that Dorothy Thompson gives so much of her attention to international affairs, and particularly those of Europe, has its roots in her years of travel during the 1920's and '30's. Her career began shortly after the First World War when she met a group of Zionists on her way to Europe. Persuading International News Service to let her cover their conference, she started out as a free lance journalist.

Luck and an almost uncanny news sense brought her to immediate success. Important events coincided so regularly with her arrival in the trouble spots of Europe that other correspondents, when they heard she arrived in town at noon, would ask what happened at one o'clock. By 1925 she was head of the New York *Evening Post* office in Berlin.

A few years later, Miss Thompson married the author Sinclair Lewis and, in the early 1930's, returned to the United States with him. In 1936, she started her column for the New York *Herald Tribune* and began studying domestic affairs as well as the international scene.

With characteristic intensity, she

began to take sides on the political issues of the home front. Until 1940, she was known as one of the New Deal's severest critics. But as the presidential campaign drew near, she surprised her readers by coming out as a Roosevelt supporter.

Her main reasons for deserting the Republican standard had to do with foreign policy. She felt that the President's years in office had given him the best knowledge of the European situation and hence made him best qualified for leadership in the war she regarded as inevitable.

The things Dorothy Thompson likes about the New Deal besides its foreign policy are mostly related to large-scale planning and social security, both of which she heartily approves. Although she has said that old-style capitalism is doomed, she is in favor of sound private ownership and characterizes herself as a "preservative" rather than an outright liberal or conservative.

Most of her recent criticisms of the administration, however, have come from the left. She believes the present war is part of a world revolution which has been going on for some time. Because of this belief, she is opposed to our dealings with compromise governments which tend to keep the revolutionary forces from coming to power. Her view is that the people of all European countries, including Germany, should be allowed to form the kind of governments they want, whether conservative or radical.

Although Miss Thompson is such a firm opponent of fascism, she is as much against harsh treatment of the German people after the war as she is against compromising with the Nazis. She believes that once a stable world organization is set up, the Germans should be allowed to enter it. It is her feeling that heavy reparations, or a carving up of German territory, would only breed another war. If we treat the Germans fairly, she thinks, they will set up a democratic government dedicated to peace instead of world conquest.

Dorothy Thompson is a capable speaker as well as a skilled writer. She has made many lecture appearances and at one time had a regular radio program. An imposing woman with soft gray hair and handsome features, she is not quite 50.

## Facts About Magazines

### Saturday Evening Post

**F**OR the last three weeks, this department of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER has been devoted to journals of opinion. The three magazines we have considered—*The Nation*, *The New Republic*, and *Common Sense*—are marked by a decidedly liberal slant. In the *Saturday Evening Post*, we are considering a different type of magazine, but one which represents the other side of the picture as far as editorial approach is concerned.

The *Saturday Evening Post* has a long and impressive history, which properly begins with the founding of its distinguished ancestor—the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. It was Benjamin Franklin who started this publication in 1728. Then only 22 years old, he was at once editor, writer, and printer. He continued to run it for a total of 38 years.

Franklin's magazine had been in existence for almost a hundred years before it took on its present name. Renamed the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1821, it was known as the *Daily Chronicle and Saturday Evening Post* for a brief period in 1828, but soon reverted to the name we recognize today.

In the beginning, it was a small bulletin which discussed the arts and sciences, editorialized on political questions, and printed poems and stories by American writers. Edgar Allan Poe's famous short story "The Black Cat" first appeared in the *Post*, as did some of the writings of Harriet Beecher Stowe and James Fenimore Cooper.

After the Civil War, the magazine declined in popularity. When Cyrus H. Curtis bought it in 1897, it was near dissolution. But under his management and the editorship of George Horace Lorimer, it rose to first place among the nation's general magazines, building up a circulation which soared above three million.

The reasons for its great power and influence were numerous. It was known for a high grade of popular fiction and for factual articles of great timeliness and reliability. Editorially, it was the spokesman of the businessman and conservative opinion.

In the 1930's, the *Saturday Evening Post* continued conservative, opposing the Roosevelt administration and, as the threat of war grew larger, championing the isolationist cause. So outspoken had the old *Post* been against war that after we became involved, the whole magazine was changed and streamlined under a new editor.

Ben Hibbs took over the editorship of the *Post* early in 1942. The May 20 issue of that year introduced a new format and a new policy regarding the war. In contrast to the old *Post's* predominantly black and white illustration, the revised magazine had color on almost every page. Shorter stories and articles, many of them dealing with the war effort, were other innovations. This is the *Saturday Evening Post* we recognize today.

Although the *Post* has reversed its policy toward the war, its political outlook remains unchanged. This philosophy stands in marked contrast to that of such liberal magazines as those discussed in previous issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. *The Nation* and *The New Republic* and *Common Sense* take the position that the economic system can run smoothly and equitably only by means of government regulation. The *Post* sees great danger in the trend of the New Deal toward centralization of government and extension of governmental power into all phases of our economic life.

The *Post* takes the traditional conservative position that government should interfere with economic activities to a minimum if the greatest prosperity is to come to the country. It has sharply criticized the New Deal for interfering with "natural forces" in our economic life. "Instead of natural forces being allowed to cure the economic body," it wrote in an editorial expressing its general philosophy, "the patient was loaded with stimulants and sedatives in the form of debt and subsidy, each dose of paternal pap making the people more and more dependent upon federal handouts." In this same editorial, which set forth the *Post's* general economic philosophy, social security was sharply criticized on the grounds of rewarding the less useful citizen at the expense of the more useful.

A typical issue of the *Saturday Evening Post* runs to more than 100 pages. Usually, there are about seven general articles, covering international issues, domestic affairs, science, and topics of general interest. About four short stories and



two serials are also included in each week's issue.

*Keeping Posted* is a page of general comment, frequently hinging on comments in letters from readers. Another regular column is *Report to the Editors*, which is characterized as "items from here and abroad, selected from informal cables and letters to the editors reporting the little things that make big news." A traditional favorite with *Post* readers is the page of *Post Scripts*, cartoons, poetry, and other humor of exceptionally fine quality.



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